

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T USNATO 0282

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-82

TAGS: NATO, PFOR

SUBJ: CONSULTATION BY US MISSIONS OVERSEAS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALLIANCE NATIONS.

REF: STATE 241181

BEGIN SUMMARY: MISSION PROPOSES THAT THE DEPT CONSIDER INSTRUCTING SELECTED POSTS TO IMPROVE THEIR CONTACTS WITH OTHER NATO EMBASSIES. WE SUGGEST THAT THIS BE DONE WITH DISCRETION AND ON THE BASIS OF APPROPRIATE SUBJECTS, SO AS TO AVOID CREATING THE IMPRESSION THAT US IS TRYING TO ORGANIZE AN ALLIANCE COUNTERMOVE AGAINST THE EC-9.

MISSION BELIEVES THAT SUCH CONTACTS WOULD HELP TO REMIND THE NINE, WHO ARE STEADILY EXPANDING THEIR POLITICAL COORDINATION ON A GLOBAL BASIS, OF THE INTERESTS OF THEIR FELLOW ALLIES AND WOULD SERVE THE OBJECTIVE IN THE SECRETARY'S APRIL 23 SPEECH OF WORKING COOPERATIVELY ON NEW COMMON PROBLEMS. THESE CONTACTS COULD ALSO FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS ON SOVIET DIPLOMACY IN THE AREA AND COULD SERVE TO REMIND NINE AND OTHERS THAT IT IS NOT JUST US WHICH NEED BE CONCERNED OVER PRESERVING WESTERN SECURITY
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INTERESTS. END SUMMARY

1. THE MISSION NOTED WITH INTEREST THE RECENT REPORT FROM EMBASSY MOSCOW (MOSCOW 0378) THAT THE PRACTICE OF REGULAR

CONSULTATION AMONG NATO EMBASSIES HAS BEEN "LOST IN THE MISTS OF TIME." IT MAY BE WORTH REVIEWING THIS QUESTION TO DETERMINE WHETHER A GRADUAL REJUVENATION OF THIS FORM OF CONSULTATION WOULD BE USEFUL TO THE US, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE SECRETARY'S APRIL 23 CALL FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORT ON COMMON PROBLEMS WITHIN A REVITALIZED ALLIANCE AND THE INTEREST EVIDENCED AT THE DEC MINISTERIAL MEETING IN INCREASED CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENTS OUTSIDE OF THE TREATY AREA. MORE FREQUENT CONTACTS AMONG THE FIFTEEN WOULD ALSO HELP TO AVOID ISOLATION OF THE NON-EC ALLIES AND CANADA.

2. IT IS WORTH NOTING IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE EC-9 ARE INCREASINGLY ENGAGED IN COORDINATING THEIR POLITICAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS NOT ONLY IN EUROPE AND AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES -- SUCH AS AT THE UNGA, CSCE AND

MBFR --BUT AS WELL IN SEVERAL CAPITALS AROUND THE GLOBE. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY MOSCOW'S COMMENT THAT WE SHOULD STEER CLEAR OF ANY EFFORT TO RESTORE REGULAR, FULL CONSULTATIONS AMONG NATO EMBASSIES. SUCH ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS COULD STRENGTHEN SUSPICIONS AMONG THE NINE THAT THE U.S. WAS TRYING TO IMPEDE THE EVOLUTION TOWARDS EC POLITICAL INTEGRATION.

3. MISSION WOULD SEE VALUE, HOWEVER, IN OCCASIONAL GATHERINGS OF REPS FROM NATO EMBASSIES, PARTICULARLY IN CAPITALS OF MAJOR STRATEGIC AND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE WEST. MOSCOW, EAST EUROPEAN CAPITALS, TOKYO, BANGKOK, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN, AND POSSIBLY TEL AVIV, PEKING AND BRASILIA STRIKE MISSION AS GOOD EXAMPLES.

4. EACH EMBASSY WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF HOW TO INITIATE THESE GATHERINGS. SOME OF THESE COULD BE ORGANIZED AROUND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS OR BUSINESS LUNCHEONS. THEY MIGHT ALSO BE BASED ON DISCUSSION OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS OF COMMON CONCERN, E.G., SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS (REFLECTING ON-GOING CONSULTATIONS IN NATO), DEFENSE AND SECURITY
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ISSUES, OR SOVIET DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN THE AREA.

5. OTHER ALLIES (E.G. CANADA, NETHERLANDS, FRG) ARE USUALLY HELPFUL IN GETTING THE FIFTEEN TOGETHER. WITHOUT BEING CONSPICUOUS, SUCH INFORMAL MEETINGS COULD IMPROVE INFORMATION EXCHANGE WHILE ALSO REINFORCING SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND ITS ALLIES. RUMSFELD

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